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North Vietnam: Chief negotiator Xuan Thuy's departure from Paris is the latest sign that Hanoi intends to respond to US policy with a tough line throughout Indochina.

Vietnamese Communist spokesmen in Paris have hinted for some time that both Thuy and Viet Cong delegate Madame Binh would be leaving Paris, and his departure therefore comes as no surprise. Coming on the heels of Hanoi's rejection of general consultations on Indochina, however, it suggests that the North Vietnamese have little inclination for meaningful negotiations on any front at this time.

The question of how to proceed in Cambodia may to some extent account for the atmospherics surrounding party First Secretary Le Duan's trip back to Hanoi from his three-week sojourn in Moscow and Peking. Le Duan's departure from Moscow for Peking on 9 May was not accompanied by any new gestures of Soviet support. By contrast, the Chinese, who often completely ignore the transit of such personages, have given him an unusually warm and well-publicized welcome. Mao and Lin Piao have both turned out, and Le Duan has talked with the Chinese chief of staff.

The apparent policy differences between Moscow and Hanoi have probably grown up in the wake of accelerated operations in Cambodia. Whatever decisions Hanoi has made have obviously been well received in Peking. The Vietnamese may now receive increased Chinese material and political support for their policy in Cambodia. The implication is strong that Hanoi has moved in a direction that may strengthen Peking's influence at the expense of Moscow's.

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France - West Germany - Poland: Paris has suggested a formula for solving the Oder-Neisse border problem, thus reasserting its claim to an active role in East-West relations.

The formula involves having the US, UK, USSR, and France state that, in the event a German peace treaty is concluded, they will accept any Oder-Neisse agreement reached between West Germany and Poland. The relationship of such an agreement to a peace treaty has been the major stumbling block in recent talks between Bonn and Warsaw.

The Poles have demanded that Bonn give an irrevocable acceptance of the Oder-Neisse line. The government of Chancellor Brandt in fact regards the border as unchangeable and is ready to respect it, but has been unwilling to give unqualified recognition because the Potsdam agreement of 1945 and later international agreements reserved the final determination of borders for a general peace treaty.

The French last week discussed this idea with visiting Polish Foreign Minister Jedrychowski, who responded favorably and offered to sound out the Soviets. In a speech last Saturday, Polish party leader Gomulka implicitly endorsed the French suggestion by asking in effect that the four powers publicly declare their support for a Bonn-Warsaw accord.

Paris plans to present its proposal to the US and UK in Bonn this week.

In recent months there has been increasing concern in Paris that its influence in the process of European detente was in danger of declining. Although many French officials are known to have misgivings about aspects of West Germany's Ost-politik, this move indicates that on certain questions Paris is willing to lend positive support to Brandt's course.

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer is still a strong favorite to win Saturday's election despite the uneasy political atmosphere and shifting opposition alliances.

It is doubtful that the opposition parties, which are still threatening to abstain, can overcome Balaguer's lead even with an endorsement from former president Juan Bosch. Balaguer's advantages as an incumbent, his military support, and the general public respect for his work over the last four years have put him in a commanding position.

Negotiations between the major opposition group, Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), and other political groups are leading to a lukewarm endorsement of Vice-President Lora for the presidency. Although the PRD is abstaining from the elections on grounds of repression, some local PRD organizations reportedly are already working on Lora's behalf, and the PRD leaders have said they will not try to force their followers to abstain. Despite its rightist tinge, Lora's ticket appears to be the least offensive alternative for the PRD hierarchy.

Meanwhile, pre-election violence has continued at a relatively high level with about three dozen persons killed or wounded in the last two weeks. The violence does not appear likely to disrupt the voting, however. The presence of OAS observers should provide some buffer against expected opposition cries of fraud.

The Communist parties do not appear to be planning a major terrorist effort. Instead they hope that some of the opposition parties will attempt to oust Balaguer before the August inauguration.

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Trinidad: Prime Minister Williams has initiated major cabinet changes in an attempt to regain public confidence.

Responding to last month's black power unrest and army mutiny, Williams has dropped or transferred eight cabinet officials and has established a new post for national security, which he has assumed. The ministers of industry and home affairs, two of Williams' long-time aides, have resigned. The former had been the only white in the cabinet, while the latter, also light-skinned, was responsible for the installation of the army commander whose inept leadership was a factor leading to the mutiny.

The government apparently intends to deal firmly with the leaders of last month's disorders. Nine civilians, including the head of one of the country's most important trade unions as well as the leader of the local black power movement, are to be charged with sedition. In addition, the three lieutenants who led the mutiny will be tried for attempted murder and about 30 of their associates for "intent to levy war." The trial of army personnel now is scheduled for July, and government officials have indicated that several of the defendants may receive death sentences.

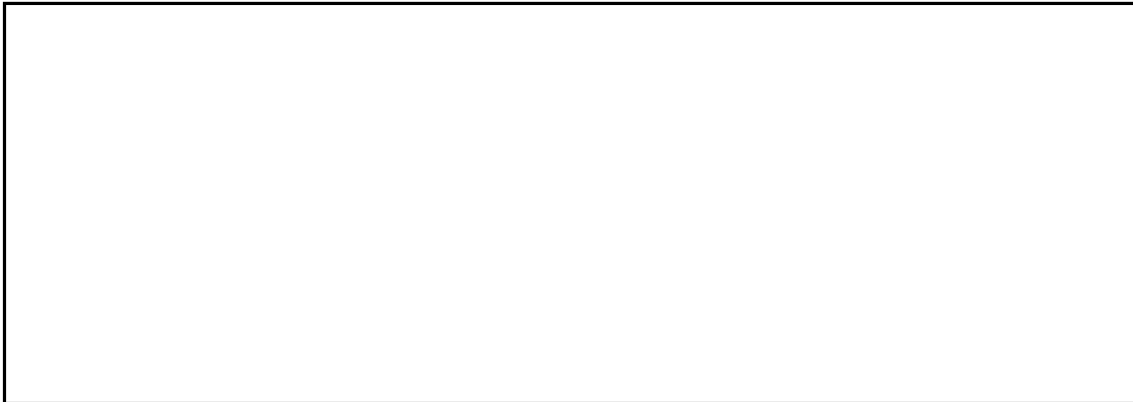
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USSR-Bolivia: The USSR has made its first significant commercial arrangement with Bolivia by agreeing to purchase tin. According to a recent press announcement by Bolivia's minister of mines, the preliminary agreement calls for the delivery this year of 4,200 tons of tin metal and tin concentrate. It projects the possibility of even greater Soviet purchases of tin metal in 1971. Although financial details of the 1970 contract are not known, its value could be between \$9 million and \$13 million. The USSR has been gradually increasing its purchases of tin metal and probably imported about 8,000 tons last year, all from the Free World.

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